

Aging Research estimates that the U.S. will need approximately 36,000 geriatricians to counter the aging population.

However, significant barriers exist that prevent physicians from entering geriatrics. A MedPac survey found that Medicare's low reimbursement rates serve as a major obstacle to recruiting new geriatricians. Due to their higher level of chronic disease and multiple prescriptions, seniors require additional care to ensure proper diagnosis and treatment. Medicare's reimbursement rates do not factor the complex needs of elderly patients. Because geriatricians treat seniors exclusively, they are especially affected by Medicare's low reimbursement rates.

The legislation I am introducing today would remedy this problem, so that Medicare beneficiaries can more effectively manage their chronic diseases. The Geriatric and Chronic Care Management Act would utilize the existing Medicare fee-for-service system to provide a new, limited assessment and care management benefit to beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions. I urge all of my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 286, "no" on rollcall No. 287, "yes" on rollcall No. 288, "yes" on rollcall No. 289, and "yes" on rollcall No. 290.

REGARDING THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL AND THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as always, I remain steadfastly committed to the security of Israel, the safety of its citizens and its right to exist. I am unable to support this resolution, however, because I believe it will contribute to further instability in the region. Further, it will not successfully resolve the underlying conflict. I strongly believe in Israel's right to exist and I have been and remain committed to the two state solution set forth in the Roadmap for peace; as former Prime Minister Rabin said: You must make peace with your enemies, not your friends. One cannot impose peace through unilateral actions.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us deviates from that Road Map. It does so in a manner that is not calculated to end the violence against Israelis. It does nothing to promote meaningful negotiations, and further undermines the role of the United States as an honest broker—our most important role. It is not for Congress—or for the Administration—to prejudge or predetermine the question of Israeli settlements or the final borders envi-

sioned by a final status agreement; that issue should be negotiated by the Israelis and Palestinians. For these reasons, I am unable to support this resolution. I fear that the policies it reflects will lead to greater harm and not to a resolution of the conflict—nor safety for civilians—that its sponsors may believe.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT LILLY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant. Scott Lilly has spent 31 years serving the House of Representatives. Scott's career in Congress started in 1973, coincidentally, the same year I was appointed to the Appropriations Committee. While he has held many distinguished positions during his long tenure in the House, most of his time was spent working in some capacity for the House Appropriations Committee.

Scott started and ended his career working for my friend and Ranking Member, DAVID OBEY. He had a brief tenure as the Clerk and Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee and has spent the last nine years as director of the minority staff of the committee.

Scott is an unapologetic liberal and we have vigorous debates and differences in our committee. But Scott never allowed a political dispute to become personal. We could have a knock down drag out fight in committee and after it was over Scott and the staff from both sides of the aisle would retire to the Committee's appointed space and enjoy an adult beverage. There was never any lingering ill will or hard feelings.

Scott is a consummate professional. His knowledge and expertise of appropriations matters is rivaled by few. He is a shrewd floor tactician and legislative strategist. Scott will now be able to spend more time in the academic world, a world where he is able draw on his great intellect and wealth of Congressional experience. Our loss is his students' gain. Every class he teaches will be enriched by his thoughtful consideration of complex political and policy questions.

Scott will be sorely missed. I can say with confidence that he will not miss our long mark-ups, our late night conferences and the marathon sessions on the floor. He is a great patriot, a great public servant and a great appropriator. I wish him all the success in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF OUR UNITED STATES VETERANS AND THE WESTSIDE VETERANS CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of all veterans of the 10th Congressional District of Ohio—for their service, bravery, and dedication on behalf of our country. Most significantly, we stand in

tribute and remembrance of those veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice when they answered the call to duty.

The lives of many veterans and their families have been uplifted by the outreach efforts of the Westside Veterans Center—a haven of services, programs and assistance focused on the psychological, medical and economic needs of more than 44,000 veterans who live in the 10th Congressional District of Ohio. The Westside Veterans Center, located in Parma, Ohio, celebrated the opening of the McCafferty outstation in 1998. The McCafferty Outstation remains focused on addressing the needs of Hispanic American and African American veterans who live within our Westside communities. Reflective of their commitment to serve our diversified community, the Westside Vet Center and McCafferty Outstation both employ bilingual staff.

The services provided by the Westside Veterans Center and the McCafferty Outstation Center is the least we can do on behalf of our veterans—our brothers, sisters, sons and daughters, mothers, fathers and grandfathers—thousands of whom have made significant sacrifices and suffered great losses during and after their unwavering service to our country.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, tribute and gratitude to the men and women of our armed forces—let us forever remember their service, sacrifice and sense of duty—yesterday, today, and for generations to come.

HONORING THE BASKING RIDGE FIRE COMPANY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1, of Bernards Township in Somerset County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On June 26, 2004 the good citizens of Basking Ridge are celebrating the Fire Company's Centennial Anniversary with special festivities and a parade.

For one hundred years, the Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1 has been protecting and serving the residents of their community. The initial impetus to start a volunteer fire company in 1904 came from a spectacular barn fire and the opening of a new school. The Wickenhaver barn burned while residents watched, helpless to do anything to quench the flames. Four horses lost their lives and the influential people in town took notice of how ill prepared they were to deal with fire. The new school had just opened on Maple Avenue, and that also increased the importance of having the ability to deal with fire. Charles Wickenhaver's descendants still serve as active volunteers with the Fire Company.

A committee to establish a volunteer fire company was assigned and met on June 17, 1904. They established the general goals and objectives of the organization and determined what was necessary to get started. The following week, on June 24, 1904, they chartered the Basking Ridge Hose Company. Early actions included establishing committees to research buying or making firefighting equipment

such as wagons, ladders, and lanterns. Each member paid dues to fund the organization. They also elected the first officers of the company; Chief Walter Allen, Treasurer Charles M. Allen, Secretary Raymond A. Henry, Warders Harry W. Bennett and Frank S. Happe.

Membership requirements were simple and reflected the physical challenges of firefighting and the social mores of the times. Members needed to be men between the ages of 18 and 45, in good health, and to live within one and a half miles of the village green. Members were called to action by the ringing of the church bell in the Presbyterian Church and had to live close enough to hear the bell and respond quickly.

The first piece of apparatus for the new Hose Company was a hand pulled hose cart and 500 feet of hose donated by the Basking Ridge Improvement Society. The Fire Company proudly displays this hose cart at special events and gatherings. Soon after, the Company approved the purchase of fabric fire buckets for 5 cents each and the construction of several ladders and a cart upon which to carry the ladders and buckets. Lumber and materials for the construction of the ladders and cart were donated by M.F. Ellis, Robert C. Bishop, and David Y. Moore.

In 1906, the Basking Ridge Hose Company incorporated under the laws of New Jersey as a volunteer Fire Company, renaming itself the Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1, Inc. Men and horses pulled the equipment to fire scenes until the first motorized fire apparatus was purchased in 1911. Basking Ridge's first fire truck was a Moline Motor Car, a 40 horsepower contraption that carried six men. The first Fire House was built by resident volunteers at the corner of Henry and South Maple in 1905 at a total cost of \$600. It was replaced by a brick structure in 1915.

The Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1 has grown over the years to meet the changing demands of the town and to incorporate the newest firefighting and lifesaving technologies. In 1985 the company moved into a new headquarters at 30 Washington Avenue. The Company operates three fire engines (purchased in 1986/97, 1992 & 2003 respectively) a heavy rescue truck (acquired in 1997), and increased from one to two ambulances in 1988. The entire roster numbers over fifty people although only approximately 35 are active firefighters/EMTs. The Company remains all-volunteer and responds to over 900 requests for help, fire and first aid, a year as well as serving at numerous civic events.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1 on the celebration of 100 years of a rich history in the protection of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004
LEGRAND SMITH OUTSTANDING
TEACHER AWARD WINNER
MELISSA SOUVA OF BRONSON,
MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, education is the key to our Nation's future prosper-

ity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement partially rests in the hands of our teachers. Today, I would like to recognize a teacher from Bronson, Michigan that significantly influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership who were winners of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship.

Melissa Souva teaches Agricultural Science at Bronson High School in Bronson, Michigan. She is credited with instilling in students an enthusiasm for not only these subjects, but also for life. As one of her students, Bobby Jo Ludwick said, "Mrs. Souva has taught me the importance of good leadership and community service. The self-confidence that I've gained from her support will play a role in my life everyday. She has taught me that I can make a difference. I thank her for making a difference for me." The respect and gratitude of her students speaks well of Melissa's ability to challenge young minds and encourage them to always put forth their best effort.

Melissa Souva's extraordinary work as a teacher has challenged and inspired countless students to move beyond the teenage tendency of superficial study and encourage them to foster deeper thought and connections to the real world. Arguably, no profession is more important because of its daily influence upon the future leaders of our community and our country, and Melissa's impact on their students is certainly worthy of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Melissa Souva. We thank her for her continuing dedication to teaching and her willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students to strive for success.

COMMENDING DR. LARRY MILLER
ON HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE
TO HIS COMMUNITY AND UPCOMING
RETIREMENT AS SUPER-
INTENDENT OF MILLVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. LoBIONDO Mr. Speaker I rise today to commend Dr. Larry Miller on his long and distinguished service to his community, and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement as superintendent for Millville Public Schools on July 1, 2004.

Dr. Miller has been a strong advocate for the educational community of Southern New Jersey for the past forty-one years. He personally has given his time and energy to better the educational system on behalf of his students. I am happy to say that Dr. Miller's leadership and tireless advocacy were recognized recently when he was chosen as the New Jersey Superintendent of the Year for 2004. His hard work has set a high standard for all educators and community leaders to follow.

Dr. Miller rose up through the ranks of the Millville Public Schools, and has left a trail of positive change and enthusiastic accomplishments. I would like to congratulate Dr. Miller, and thank him on behalf of the people and students of New Jersey's Second Congress-

sional District for a job well done. I hope he enjoys every bit of his retirement, he certainly deserves it.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR
RALPH GUERRERO, JR.

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Major Ralph Guerrero Jr. who on June 24, 1974, enlisted in the United States Marines Corps and will officially retire today after 30 years of honorable and distinguished service. Sergeant Major Guerrero leaves the Marines Corps as one of the most respected and accomplished member of our armed forces.

A native of San Fernando, California, Sergeant Major Guerrero was born on July 14th 1956, and graduated from San Fernando High School in June 1974. Sergeant Major Guerrero and his wife Silvia P. Gomez have a son, Ralph III, and a daughter, Chyenenne. Sergeant Major Guerrero is the quintessential local success story.

After he graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA and completed Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, CA, Sergeant Major Guerrero embarked on a successful Marine Corps career. From his participation in the evacuation of South Vietnam and Cambodia; to his amphibious reconnaissance training; to his assignment to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego California, where he served as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, Chief Drill Instructor and was meritoriously promoted to Gunnery Sergeant; Sergeant Major Guerrero has proven himself a critical team player.

Sergeant Major Guerrero's leadership and expertise were vital to the Marine Corps during his deployment to El Salvador as an Advisor to a Battalion of Salvadorian Marines. During his subsequent deployments, including: Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Sea Angel, Operation Restore Hope, Operation Noble Eagle and his visits to Marines in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom his contributions were invaluable. His exemplary leadership skills proved critical to the Marine Corps during his tour of duty at Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, where he served as the Command and the Military District of Washington Sergeant Major. During this tour, Sergeant Major Guerrero was a member of the FY99 E-8/E-9 selection board, Chairman Senior Enlisted Advisory Community for USO, a member of the Board of Director's for USO and Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, and a member of the Foreign Joint Services NonCommissioned Officer Associations.

In July 1999, Sergeant Major Guerrero was assigned to a Major Marine Corps command, as the Sergeant Major for Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni Japan. In 2001, he was assigned as the Sergeant Major for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. These important assignments were evidence of the great respect and trust he had earned.

Sergeant Major Guerrero is deservedly highly decorated. He has earned the Legion of